



The Stream

May 2025

Message from Mike...

Hello church,

Luke 15 is all parables about things that are lost. A lost sheep, a lost coin, and a lost child. We always seem to concentrate on the ones who are lost, we love a prodigal returning and a lost sheep that is found. I must ask though, is it possible to be attending church, serving, worshiping, even leading but still have no communion with our Heavenly Father?

Perhaps there are two prodigal sons in Luke 15. The younger son is clearly estranged from the father by his own choice and unwise decisions. How is the older estranged, you may ask?

The younger son knows he is lost and will take any lowering of his situation in order to be part of his father's household again. The older son is still at home, part of the family, doing all the stuff and remaining faithful. He would never embarrass his father by wasting his inheritance.

The younger is repentant, full of remorse and now fully dependent on his father for everything. Is the contrast here that the elder is dependent on what he has done himself? Is his father's inheritance assured by his elder son's actions? Does he even need his father anymore? Doesn't his father owe the elder son for his faithful and devoted service over many years?

If we read the start of the chapter again, verses 1-3 say:

"Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them! So Jesus told them this story:"

The 'them' seems to refer to the Pharisees and teachers of the law. Perhaps Jesus may be again challenging the Jewish leaders. They prided themselves on their adherence to the law, doing all the stuff, observing all the feasts and rituals down to the smallest detail. They were also the ones who rejected Him and the message He brought.

So what does this teach us? Whether we do all the right things or all the wrong things, our salvation actually depends on the grace of God. Whether we are prodigal children or faithful children we cannot do anything to earn our salvation. None of our actions can add anything to what Jesus has done for us.

We all need to develop and keep that relationship with the Father through Jesus. We can be doing all the 'stuff' but still be estranged, still be prodigal. We must check our hearts, consider our busyness and make sure that we don't add to our salvation by what we do or what we consider are necessary works for our salvation.



Ephesians 2 v 8-9 - 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Let us not be unrepentant prodigals but prodigals that are dependent on God for everything.

God bless, Mike



Easter Services



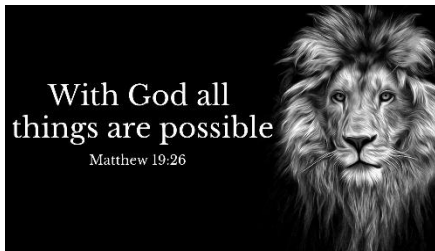
Fellowship and worship were enjoyed by NBCF members over the Easter weekend starting with a reflective Maundy Thursday service led by Mike where we considered the Last Supper and the events to come. On Good Friday many members joined with Churches Together in Gravesham for the Walk of Witness through Gravesend, culminating in a service at the top of Windmill Hill, Gravesend. An exceptional opportunity to witness to our faith and the events of Easter to others in the area. On Easter Day Nicky led a service marking the celebration of the resurrection and the hope and faith that God gives to us.



Prayer

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" Joshua 1 v9.

We remember those facing difficulties and lift them in prayer:



Edna Ferdinando – We lift Edna to the Lord and pray for her and the problems that she has been encountering with her heart and that treatment is swift. We also pray for her family and loved ones.

Pat Hall – As you may be aware, Pat has recently spent time in hospital for the treatment of a burn. We pray that this heals quickly and that Pat is relieved of the pain that she has suffered.

Lesley and Roger Thurman – pray for Lesley, her brother Roger and their family whose mother, Una, a longtime member of NBCF was

promoted to glory at the beginning of April.

Jenny Kelly – We remember Jenny and lift her to the Lord as she continues through her cancer pathway and thank the Lord for her recent good news and improved blood counts.

Mary Weller – We specifically pray for Mary's ongoing treatment and for her upcoming tests. We also pray for her family and particularly for Ian.

Phil Troy – We pray for healing for Rowan's brother Phil as he recovers from his splenectomy and for his family and their support.

Mick – Rob Poole's friend Mick is suffering with stomach cancer and we uphold him in our prayers.

Anne Jenkins – Please can we pray for strength for Anne and her family following the loss of her sister-in-law, Beryl who was 96, Anne's mother is also suffering with poor health.

If you have an emergency or particular prayer need please speak to any of the Leadership Team who will be happy to pray with you and/or include your need on the Emergency Prayer Line.

May's Sunday Service Details

Date	Leader	Speaker	Comments
4 th May	Joint Service with Darent Valley CC	Mike Coveney	Psalm 32 - Blessedness of Forgiveness Trust in God (NB there is no service at the Longfield Hill Community Hall)
11 th May	Nicky Collins	Mike Collins	Galatians 2
18 th May	Beth Collins	Peter Bundell	Galatians 3
25 th May	Steve Rogers	Abi Pike	Galatians 4

NBCF on Facebook



We now have 41 members of our Facebook group and new people are joining us all the time. The group can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/4014339788781889/> and has interesting thoughts for the day and news about activities and events at NBCF. We would love more to have more members so please take a look and join us.

Dates for Your Diary



4th May at 10.30 am – Joint Service with Darent Valley Community Church – at the Anthony Roper Primary School, Eynsford it would be lovely for as many members of NBCF there as possible to join together with DVCC to enjoy worship and fellowship together

12th June, 12noon – 1.15pm – Churches Together in Gravesham Networking Lunch at the Jesus Victory Centre, Valley Drive, Gravesend, DA12 5SH

June 22nd from 12 noon – Churches Together in Gravesham picnic & service with Christians from around the Gravesham area in the Fort Gardens, Gravesend



June 22nd at 4pm – Joint baptismal service at Wilmington Community Church, further details to follow

Date TBC – NBCF Community Funday, joining with the other groups who use the Longfield Community Hall for a day of fun, games and food, further details to follow.



Thank You to Janet...

We are sad to say that Janet has decided to leave New Barn as she feels that the Lord is leading her to pastures new and that she must be obedient and follow. Janet has been with NBCF for nearing 30 years and has worked hard (and often in the background) with setting up the hall for Sunday services, delivering newspapers in the locality, running the Bible Study and Friday Prayer Meetings and helping with various events. Janet will be missed, we thank her for all her hard work over the years and wish her all the best for the future.



Gravesham Foodbank

Many thanks to all who regularly contribute goods for the Gravesham Foodbank is it very much appreciated. The Food Bank would appreciate the following items, particularly those in **red**.



UHT milk
Tinned peas
Meals in tins
Cous cous
Pasta N sauce
Squash
Biscuits

Crackers
Tinned cold meat
Tinned fruit
Tinned vegetables
Tinned fish (no anchovies)
Peanut butter
Honey

Chocolate spread
Sweets / treats
Wrapped chocolate biscuits
Multi packs of crisps
Anti bac wipes
Bio & non-bio washing tabs

Please don't forget no baby food or baby milk – thank you ☺

Current Groups at NBCF

Group	Day	Time	Details
Welcome Wednesday	Wednesdays	1-3pm	Longfield Hill Community Hall – a friendly 'pop up' club with refreshments, board games, talks, demonstrations and activities, open to all
New Barn Life Group	Thursdays	7.30pm	At Eve and Richard's home: 1 st May – J.John 10 – Introduction & 10 th Commandment with Mike 8 th May – J.John 10 the 9 th Commandment with Rupert 15 th May – J.John 10 the 8 th Commandment with Ron 22 nd May – J.John 10 the 7 th Commandment with Annette & Andrew 29 th May – No meeting – half term holidays
Monthly Prayer Meeting	Saturday 17 th May	9am	Meeting in the building adjacent to Community Hall – Zoom link also available.

All groups are open to everyone and all are most welcome - For further details, please contact the organiser, Ron Owen on 07850 004696 or email newbarncf@outlook.com

The Leadership Team

Keep in touch and please contact any of the below at newbarncf@outlook.com:

Pastor: Mike Collins

Trustees: Paul Bishop, Ron Owen, Stephen Paddock & Mary Bourne (external Trustee from CPC)

Leadership Team: Lynne Bishop, Paul Bishop & Ron Owen

Safeguarding Lead : Nicky Collins

*For further details on any of the above, please see our website at newbarncf.org.uk.
If you have something that you would like to be included in the next copy of The Stream,
please speak to any of the Leadership Team, or email newbarncf@outlook.com.*